



DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM LEVY 2026 FACT SHEET

SEE PROJECT DETAILS &
PRELIMINARY IMAGES AT
[DEFIANCELIBRARY.ORG/ANNEX](https://defiancelibrary.org/annex)

The Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees voted in May 2026 to place a 1.65-mill, 35-year levy on the November 3, 2026, ballot consisting of:

- A **renewal** of the library system's existing 0.75-mill operating levy. This levy has been in place, unchanged, for 24 years.
- A 0.9-mill **increase** to backfill the library system's operating budget for debt payments on a construction loan and operating costs at a new annex building across the street from Defiance Public Library.



ANNEX BUILDING - EXTERIOR APPROACH
SHP ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

The Annex Project

DPLS has identified a need for additional space as its services and offerings have expanded and diversified. A donation of two parcels of property across from the Carnegie library on Fort Street has provided a site for the proposed expansion. In 125 years of service, DPLS has incurred no long-term debt.

Estimated total construction cost (including Carnegie renovations): \$8.3 million

- Fundraising goal: 30% of total construction cost (\$2.5 million)
- Library funds set aside: \$1 million
- Donated property: Assessed at \$490,000 by Bigner Appraisal

Plans for the annex include an expanded Children's Services Department, a larger MakerSpace, a large meeting room to be shared with local government and nonprofits, huddle rooms, and space for an adult literacy coordinator. This will provide space in the Carnegie building for expanded teen and local history services.

More Information

Ohio public libraries receive most of their funding through the state's Public Library Fund (PLF). DPLS plans to borrow against future PLF revenue for construction of the annex, reducing the amount of PLF revenue available for library operations. Approximately half of the 0.9-mill increase would be dedicated to construction-loan debt payments, with the remaining half dedicated to operating costs at the new annex.

Systemwide Services

The annex would become the central hub for services that would support DPLS' branch locations too, most notably the MakerSpace, which already brings services to DPLS' branches, and the Adult Literacy Program, which could do the same. Expanded local history and genealogy services would also provide resources for patrons of the Sherwood and Hicksville libraries.

Understanding the Cost

The County Auditor estimates that the proposed levy will cost approximately \$47 annually for each \$100,000 of the County Auditor's market value of a home.

Election Information:

General Election is November 3, 2026. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2026. Military and overseas absentee voting begins Sept. 18. Early in-person voting and absentee voting by mail begins October 6.